

Frequently Asked Questions

How soon do we start writing on the course?

Students begin the process of writing short stories and essays from the start of the first module of the degree.

Why do we need to study language theory?

As future writers, journalists or editors in any one of a number of contexts you will need to be able to analyse language and describe it to others. There is a theoretical basis to the description of English which you will tackle and master early in the course so that you will become expert in looking critically at all manner of written texts. You will know what 'good English' is, how to describe it, and how to write it.

If I am hoping to be a writer, why do I need to take a module called, 'The Publishing Industry'?

As a writer you will need to understand how the publishing industry operates in order to submit work for successful publication. In this module you will learn about the UK publishing industry and the roles of commissioning editor, agent, copy editor, reviewer, etc. You will also begin to acquire useful skills such as editing, proofreading, and indexing – and you will be introduced to the world of self-publishing.

How can I find out more?

Contact Peter Dewar

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To request a prospectus please telephone +44 (0)20 8240 2314 or visit our website

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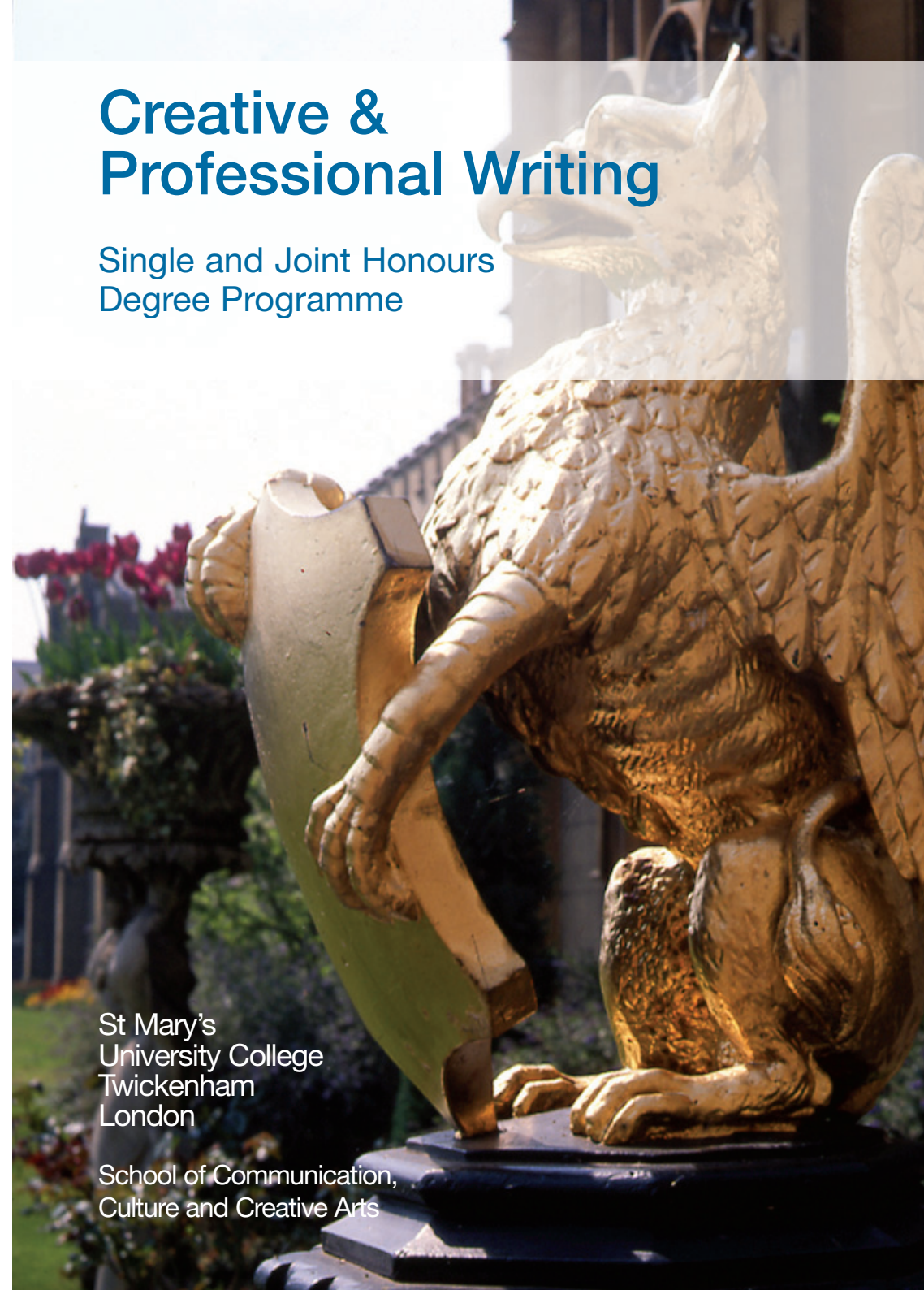
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Creative & Professional Writing

Single and Joint Honours
Degree Programme

St Mary's
University College
Twickenham
London

School of Communication,
Culture and Creative Arts



Creative & Professional Writing

Your opportunity to develop your talents as a writer

Creative & Professional Writing is a unique and flexible course that will give you a broad knowledge of different kinds of writing. You will be able to develop practical skills and an understanding of the processes involved in seeing through creative writing projects from conception to production. Creative & Professional Writing is available as a Single Honours programme and also a Joint Honours programme.

The programme combines learning opportunities across a range of related but distinctive fields of professional writing. You will be offered a broad training in many aspects of creative writing. You will be introduced to the world of publishing and will be able to acquire a broad range of expertise and to specialise in different areas of professional writing.

The flexible nature of the programme allows you either to master equally the full range, or to concentrate on certain specific types of writing and contexts for writing. Creative and imaginative thinking will be fostered, and you will be encouraged to use initiative at all levels.

Entry Requirements

Minimum of 240 points of which 180 must include a B and a C. Remaining points can be made up of A level and AS level grades including General Studies. Alternative qualifications welcome. .

Programme Structure and Content

Level 1

A Foundation Course in Writing Skills helps you to assess your strengths and weaknesses, looks carefully at the English language, and prepares you for all kinds of writing. Writing Short Fiction concentrates on the skills necessary for writing the short story. Reading across literary forms will develop your skills as a critical reader; an essential pre-requisite for a competent writer. Journalism 1 introduces you to the nature and scope of journalistic texts and covers relevant critical and practical issues.

At Levels 2 and 3 options allow you to diversify or concentrate on specific areas.

Level 2

You will be able to choose to study in the following areas:

[Writing Lyrics and Poetry](#)

[Writing for Business Purposes](#)

[Writing Genre Fiction](#)

[The Publishing Industry](#)

[Writing for Film and Television](#)

[Writing in Collaboration](#)

[Journalism 2](#)

Level 3

You will be able to choose to study in the following areas:

[Special Study/Portfolio](#)

[Journalism 3](#)

[Writing Poetry](#)

[Writing Children's Fiction](#)

[Screen Writing](#)

[Writing Reviews and Criticism](#)

Teaching methods

The Creative & Professional Writing programme is taught by means of lectures, workshops, seminars and individual tutorials. Students are encouraged to start creative writing at a very early stage in the course. There are opportunities for collaborative projects and developing skills in constructive criticism of students' creative work.

Assessment methods

The programme, by its very nature, places a premium on practical exercises, coursework and projects, so the full range of skills will be assessed by a diverse range of methods. Modules are assessed on the basis of creative writing portfolios, course files, presentations, productions. Attendance at writing workshops is an important aspect of assessment for some modules.

In the final year of the programme it is possible for students to be assessed in whole or in part on large-scale works such as novels, screenplays, dramatic works and collections of poetry. These will be produced within the framework of a special study or portfolio project.

Career opportunities

There are exciting career opportunities in publishing, journalism, advertising, the media, editing and creative writing. The programme is useful for all careers requiring a full range of writing skills or work which requires expressive and communicative skills. It is excellent preparation if you would like to pursue further specialised training at postgraduate level.

"This course includes a step by step guide to what makes a good writer. I enjoy the course particularly because of the interesting discussions that happen in seminars. I have always felt comfortable to ask questions and believe the lecturers make a considerable effort to make themselves approachable. I chose St Mary's mainly for its small campus and the strong community. I enjoy being here, there are always activities going on."

Stephen Maguire
Creative and Professional Writing